

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4512

INFO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFORY, YO , BU

SUBJECT: RENEWED YUGOSLAV-BULGARIAN POLEMICS OVER WORLD WAR II

REF : A. BELGRADE 5314. B. BELGRADE 1966

1. AFTER LULL IN POLEMICS (REFTEL A), YUGOSLAV PRESS IS AGAIN TAKING BULGARIA TO TASK FOR OVERSTATING BULGARIAN ROLE IN LIBERATING YUGOSLAVIA DURING SECOND WORLD WAR (REFTEL B).

2. CAUSE OF RENEWED DEBATE IS PUBLICATION BY BULGARIAN MILITARY PUBLISHING HOUSE OF BOOK ENTITLED "THE PARTICIPATION OF BULGARIA IN SHATTERING HITLER'S GERMANY, FROM SEPTEMBER 1944 TO MAY 1945", WRITTEN BY SEVERAL BULGARIAN ARMY COLONELS AND MILITARY PUBLICISTS. ACCORDING TO TANJUG DISPATCH FROM SOFIA WHICH APPEARED IN MAIN BELGRADE NEWSPAPERS OCTOBER 21, BOOK CLAIMS "DECISIVE ROLE" FOR BULGARIAN ARMY IN LIBERATING YUGOSLAVIA AND IGNORES IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION OF YUGOSLAV FORCES. DISPATCH CITES SIMILAR ANALYSIS IN OCTOBER ISSUE OF "IZVESTIJA", MAGAZINE OF INSTITUTE FOR MILITARY HISTORY OF BULGARIAN MILITARY COMMAND.

3. EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE TWO FACES OF SOFIA" IN OCTOBER 22 ISSUE OF NATIONAL DAILY "BORBA" CHIDES
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BULGARIANS FOR OFFICIALLY SAYING THEY ARE READY TO DISCUSS

ALL OUTSTANDING ISSUES WHILE AT SAME TIME
MOUNTING "ANTI-YUGOSLAV CAMPAIGN". EDITORIAL
SYAS NEW BOOK REPEATS AND SUPPLEMENTS "WELL-KNOWN
COLLECTION OF (ANTI-YUGOSLAV) ABSURDITIES" WHICH
ARE OFTEN PROPAGATED IN BULGARIA. EFFECT OF BOOK
IS DESCRIBED AS "IMPORTANT IN DISTURBING YUGOSLAV-
BULGARIAN RELATIONS."
SILBERMAN

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